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ABSTRACT

Data taken from the Regional Technical Cooperative Project S-79 ("Rural Development and the Quality of Life in the Rural South") were used to assess the effects of objective conditions and subjective experiences on community satisfaction among a sample of 1,783 open-country household heads or spouses of household heads living in low income counties in 8 southern rural states. Variables utilized to operationalize the causal model were selected on the basis of previous research findings or derived from factor analysis. The variables were: community satisfaction (rated on a 5-point scale); objective environment (a coefficient of income inequality); person characteristics (respondent attributes of educational attainment, age, total family income, social participation score, and type of communication items owned); comparison level indicators (20 Likert-type attitude statements which were broad in scope); and fate control (a 6-item index). Findings indicated satisfaction with life quality and type of communication contacts accounted for 22% of the variation in community satisfaction and that respondents who had more types of communication contacts were more satisfied with their residential environment, suggesting voluntary organizations may be limited in their ability to influence decisions affecting quality of life, (i.e., dissatisfaction is low when there is little optimism about attaining a better state of being). (JC)

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Determinants of Community Satisfaction

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INTRODUCTION

Formulation of national policies of growth and development to enhance the quality of life of American society generally has relied upon such objective measures as economic conditions and trends. In recent years, however, considerable debate has been directed toward the effectiveness of such policies because objective measures do not enable policy makers to fully consider the social aspects and social costs that result from the implementation of such policies.

Campbell and Converse (1972) argue that the formation of intelligent social policy requires more information about the state of the Nation than can be learned from economic data alone. They point out that although the last 25 years have been a period of unprecedented rise in national income, the rising rates of public disorder, violence, crime, and drug use have made it clear that affluence is not the total answer to society's problems.

Nor is it clear to the American public that social progress has occurred. A national survey conducted by Harris (1976) found that while 33 percent of the public believed that the quality of life has improved over the past ten years, 44 percent indicated that it has gotten worse. In 1973, by 45-35 percent, a plurality then felt that the quality of life had deteriorated over the previous decade.

To overcome this situation, Campbell et al. (1976) propose that researchers and policy makers change from a concentration on being economically "well-off" to a concern with a sense of "well-being." For them, a sense of well-being can be seen as a composite of feelings of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with a variety of more specific domains of life. Marans and Rodgers (1975) argue more specifically that it is only when the relationship of objective conditions of society to subjective experiences of individuals are understood that intelligent social policy can be drafted.

At present, little data are available concerning the relationship of objective conditions of society to subjective experiences of individuals. For example, measurement of the effectiveness of the Rural Development Act of 1972 is based on goals established by the Secretary of Agriculture. According to the Third Annual Report of the Secretary of Agriculture to the Congress (1976), status indicators for each rural development goal have been derived from national data concerned with changes in employment, income, population, housing, community services and facilities, health care, education, rural public transportation, law enforcement, and fire protection.

Although passage of the Rural Development Act of 1972 was described as "the most important single piece of legislation for rural America that the Senate has ever considered" (United States Senate, 1973:12) its impact on rural America has been difficult to assess. One explanation for this difficulty is that program data of most Federal agencies are not adequate for the purpose of annual rural development reporting. The Third Annual Report of the Secretary of Agriculture to the Congress (1976:5) explains:

. . . given the diversity of rural settings and interest, the difficulty of defining national needs for rural community services and facilities, and other problems, it is often difficult to relate rural development progress to objective quantitative measures. Nonetheless, policy and decision makers will have to continue to make judgments based on quantitative measures of adequacy in numerous areas

On the other hand, Brickman and Campbell (1971:288) contend that the long term effects of any societal program to ameliorate the general condition or the specific condition of particular groups cannot be understood without reference to the temporal course of subjective adaptation level, even if the specific programs limit themselves to talking about objective quantities like tons of food or number of available jobs.

OBJECTIVES

One social measure that is generating considerable interest because of its applicability to both objective conditions of society and subjective perceptions of life experiences is community satisfaction. Marans and Rodgers (1975:304) propose that community satisfaction can be seen as a component of the broader concept of the quality of life. They offer:

If the concept of life satisfaction is a meaningful and useful one, the relation of satisfaction with the community to measures of life satisfaction would be of considerable interest . . . In comparison with many other aspects of life experiences, the community and its component parts are subject to potential influence by policy makers. To the extent that a person's satisfaction with his community can influence his satisfaction with more private spheres of life, or his satisfaction with his life in general, the importance of measures of community satisfaction is multiplied.

It is the general purpose of this study to investigate the satisfaction rural residents have for their residential environment. Knowledge of objective conditions and subjective perceptions influencing community satisfaction can provide additional information which could prove helpful in the formulation of public policy directed toward improved quality of life in rural America.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

From a historical perspective, measurement of the affect of people's level of community satisfaction on their life quality is a relatively new endeavor. In integrating the findings of some of these studies, Marans and Rodgers (1975:301) report that most people, including many of those living in substandard environments, tend to be fairly content with the community in which they live. The social setting, including interpersonal relations and living in single family housing, are salient factors influencing an individual's level of satisfaction with his residential community. Other important factors which are related to general community satisfaction are the physical conditions in the environment and the convenience of having nearby public and private facilities and services.

Three independent studies by Marans and Rodgers (1975) generally support the basic contention that objective measures of environmental attributes are inadequate in and of themselves as indicators of life quality. Only as their relationship to subjective indicators is understood do objective measures begin to take on human meaning and provide reliable guidance for public policy. Specifically, Marans and Rodgers found that attitudes toward nine assessments of public services and facilities were strongly related to overall satisfaction with the community. Conversely, person characteristics had

a weak influence on community satisfaction. In addition, substantial differences in community satisfaction were expressed by residents living in communities of different sizes.

Focusing on one aspect of community satisfaction - satisfaction with services in rural areas - Rojek et al. (1975) found such satisfaction to be multidimensional. Factor analysis of intercorrelations revealed four distinct clusters of local community services (referred to as medical, public, commercial, and educational). In a second part of the study, controlling for residential location, 11 economic, social, and demographic variables were examined via analysis of covariance for each of the four satisfaction factors. An analysis of the results indicated that relationships between satisfaction with services and the objective indicators within each of the residential strata examined were essentially the same. In addition, the explanatory power of the objective correlates to satisfaction were quite low. The authors concluded that the use of only objective information to measure the social conditions of human existence appeared to be inadequate.

Goudy (1977), however, has challenged studies on satisfaction with services as being too narrow in scope. Instead, he hypothesized that perceptions of social dimensions, such as the distribution of power, citizen participation, and commitment to the community are more efficient predictors of community satisfaction than are perceptions of service adequacy. A study by Goudy of 4,627 residents of 27 incorporated communities in a six-county region of North-Central Iowa found that social dimensions were more important than service and opportunity scores in explaining satisfaction with the local community. He recommended that if future studies are to be effective, they must include respondents' evaluations of the variables that are of greatest salience to their reported satisfaction levels.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

An investigation of one's satisfaction with one's residential environment must take account of the transient nature of satisfaction. That is, as one's satisfaction with one's community increases, subjective standards for gauging satisfaction will increase. Brickman and Campbell (1971:287) explain that the subjective experience of stimulus input is a function not of the absolute level of the input but of the discrepancy between the input and past levels.

This tendency for stimuli to lose its effectiveness with repetition or duration is referred to as habituation and is a fundamental postulate of adaptation-level theory. According to Helson (1964:37);

. . . An individual's attitudes, values, ways of structuring his experiences, judgments of physical, aesthetic, and symbolic objects, intellectual and emotional behavior, learning, and interpersonal relations all represent modes of adaptation to environmental and organismic forces . . . Stimuli impinge upon organisms already adapted to what had gone before, and internal states depend upon previously existing internal conditions as well as external inciters to action.

Few studies of community satisfaction have utilized a conceptual framework which enables the incorporation of the structural concept "community" and the social-psychological concept "satisfaction." If one perceives an individual's satisfaction with his residential community as being indicative of his adaptation level to the community, the theory of interaction outcomes as formulated by Thibaut and Kelley (1959) can be utilized to guide construction of a causal

model of community satisfaction and the stimuli that influence it. Although formulation of the theory of interaction outcomes was based on a dyad, Thibaut and Kelley (1959:6) believe the concepts utilized in their analysis have general applicability beyond the dyad.

The theory utilizes the concept "comparison level" to represent an individual's adaptation level to instigated outcomes of social relationships. A comparison level is defined as the standard or reference point against which an individual evaluates the attractiveness of a relationship or how satisfactory it is. The comparison level can be represented as the neutral point on a continuum ranging from dissatisfaction to satisfaction. Outcomes that fall above the comparison level would be relatively satisfying and attractive to the individual; outcomes that fall below the comparison level would be relatively unsatisfactory and unattractive. The location of the comparison level on an individual's scale of outcomes will be influenced by all the outcomes known to the individual, either by direct experience or symbolically (Thibaut and Kelley, 1959:80).

The comparison level depends in part upon the individual's conception of his own power, his ability to cope with the contingent demands of others, and the realms over which he believes his own causal efficacy extends. The individual is especially sensitive to variations in outcomes subject to his own control and relatively insensitive to variations caused by others and beyond his control. Outcomes the individual has commonly experienced are more likely to be perceived as within the realm of self-determination than those he has rarely experienced or heard about.

The comparison level is largely an indication of what the individual feels he deserves and only in small part an indication of what he expects or anticipates on the basis of all outcomes he has experienced. This is because outcomes are weighted according to perceived responsibility for them. Thibaut and Kelley (1959:98) note also that dissatisfaction with failing to attain a desired state is less if there was little optimism about attaining it in the first place.

CAUSAL MODEL

Guided by the Thibaut-Kelley theoretical orientation, a causal model of community satisfaction is presented, Figure I. Community satisfaction represents an individual's adaptation level to his residential environment.

(Figure I about here)

The model depicts community satisfaction as being influenced by the comparison level an individual uses in evaluating his circumstances in relation to those he has experienced in the past. The location of the comparison level on an individual's scale of outcomes is influenced by all the outcomes known to him. The comparison level depends upon the type of environment in which an individual resides and by differences in individual perceptions of his own power or control over his fate. Control over one's fate, in turn, is influenced by specific features of one's own background such as personal characteristics.

According to Heise (1975:13), causal inference begins with the assumption that any event may be the cause of another event. Relations are then eliminated that are impossible or implausible in particular circumstances. Thus, a

path model is developed by eliminating the relations that do not appear to exist and retaining those that one is uncertain about and those known to exist.

Since one cannot be certain of the relationship of personal characteristics to the comparison level or to community satisfaction, the model in Figure I proposes that personal characteristics influence both the comparison level and community satisfaction. In interpreting the model, one should remember that causal modeling cannot prove causality. Rather, it is a technique for selecting those variables that are potential determinants of the effects--and then attempting to isolate the separate contributions to the effects made by each cause (Asher, 1976).

METHODOLOGY

Source of Data

The data for this study were taken from Regional Technical Cooperative Project S-79. Entitled "Rural Development and the Quality of Life in the Rural South," the study was conducted by the Agricultural Experiment Stations of eight southern states and Puerto Rico in cooperation with the Cooperative State Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. States participating in the study include Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Data were obtained from a standardized field schedule administered to household heads (or spouse of head) in 1972-73. The data are sampled from open-country households in low-income counties in the participating states. An area probability sampling design, developed by the Department of Experimental Statistics at North Carolina State University was used to survey the region. According to Cleland (1962:13):

The final design of the sample was such that each county included would have a representative sample, the low-income counties in each state would be represented, each subregion within the region, and finally, the low-income counties in the entire region would be represented.

A total of 2,626 individuals were interviewed. Various analysis restrictions diminished the sample size. First, perceptions of environmental attributes were not obtained from any respondent who first came to the county less than eight years prior to the survey or who had spent less than five of the last ten years in the county. This reduced the sample size to 2,164.

Although the sampling procedure was based on open-country households, some states included respondents residing in incorporated areas. A second restriction, to include only open-country households, reduced the sample size to 1,846. Missing data reduced the final sample size to 1,783.

Measurement

This study is concerned with the effects of objective conditions and subjective experiences on community satisfaction. Since only open-country households were interviewed, the county is utilized as the community frame of reference. Bonjean et al. (1969:160) provide several reasons to support the use of the county as the unit of analysis and as a measure of the community.

1. The county is the one administrative unit below the level of the State for which the greatest amount of comparable data are available.

2. The use of city data alone eliminates the rural population . . . (because) comparable data are readily available only for cities larger than 25,000.

3. The political, social, economic, cultural, and functional boundaries of cities and villages are no more sharply delineated than are those of counties.

Operational Definitions

The variables utilized to operationalize the causal model were selected on the basis of previous research findings or derived from factor analysis. Operational definitions of community satisfaction, the objective environment, and person characteristics were obtained from previous research studies. Factor analysis, in turn, was used to establish indicators of the comparison levels individuals utilized in evaluating their residential circumstances and control over their own fate.

Community Satisfaction

Community satisfaction, the dependent variable of this study, was operationalized by asking respondents to rate the county as a place to live--all things considered--on a five point scale ranging from one (very good) to five (poor). Therefore, the higher the score, the greater the dissatisfaction with the county as a place to live. Table I reveals the distribution of responses by rating of community satisfaction. The distribution is similar to those of other studies of community satisfaction in that people tend to be satisfied with their residential environment.

(Table I about here)

Objective Environment

One measure of the type of environment in which one resides is the distribution of households by size of income. Referred to as a coefficient of income inequality for a Lorenz curve (Stigler, 1966:293), this distribution is based on a cumulative percentage of income of families ranked from lowest to highest plotted against their cumulative number. The coefficient has a maximum value of 1.0 (when the lowest 99.999 percent received no income) and a minimum value of zero (when all incomes are equal). The higher the coefficient, the greater the inequality.

Person Characteristics

Person characteristics were developed from attributes of each respondent for five variables: educational attainment, age, total family income, social participation score, and type of communication items owned. Educational attainment, age, and total family income were straightforward and required no computations.

The social participation score was the extent of voluntary participation in associations called formal organizations. Scores were based on participation during the previous 12 months and could range from 1 to 6 for each organization to which a respondent belonged. Score values were assigned as follows:

<u>Score Value</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1	Member of an organization
2	Attended at least 25 percent of the meetings of the organization
3	Served as an officer or committee member of that organization

A respondent's social participation score was then determined by summing the scores for all organizations to which the respondent belonged. The higher the score, the more involved the respondent in voluntary associations.

A measure of communication items owned was utilized to provide an indication of an individual's access to the world around him. Thus, the higher the score the more information one has access to when comparing his situation to that of others. The communication score was based on a Guttman-type scale of the family's possessions of the following items:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Score</u>
Possesses none of the four items	0
Possesses only TV	1
Also possesses telephone	2
Also receives daily newspaper	4
Also receives other magazines	8

The communication score scale had a coefficient of reproducibility of .90 and a coefficient of scalability of .59.

Comparison Level Indicators

Indicators of comparison levels were based on Likert-type attitude statements which were broad in scope and designed to cover a wide range of community phenomena. Respondents were asked to assess the current situation in the county for each of twenty items on a five point scale ranging from one (very good) to five (poor). These items were quite diverse in nature and included many attributes of the environment. Scores for these items were based on weights derived from common factor analysis. The correlation matrix for the 20 comparison-level items (Table II) were factor analyzed from their inter-correlations to determine whether subjective experiences covary over a series of respondents on one occasion. It was found that the comparison level variables could be accounted for adequately by three factors. Labeled life quality, institutional services, and political efficacy, these three factors and their loadings are presented in Table III.

(Table II about here)
(Table III about here)

The three comparison level factors were submitted to a promax rotation which first rotates to an orthogonal varimax rotation and then relaxes the orthogonality of the factors to better fit a simple structure. Correlation of the three factors after oblique rotation determined that the data patterns themselves have variance in common to the degree measured by the factor correlations squared and that the factors are not naturally near orthogonal. It was

concluded that the promax rotated factor pattern matrix of the oblique factor solution best represents the simple structure. That is, the oblique rotation better maximizes the number of high loadings on each factor, while minimizing the number of factors with high loadings for each scale. Therefore, the indicators of comparison level and the subsequent index scores are based on an oblique rotation of the data matrix. One may interpret that the higher the score, the more dissatisfied the respondent with the outcome of that aspect of his residential environment.

Fate Control

For this study, one's perceptions of his control over his own fate was operationalized by a six item index. Each item was scored one point if the respondent agreed with the item, two points for undecided and three points if the respondent disagreed with the item. Therefore, the more items agreed with, the higher one perceives his fate control to be. The six items and their means, standard deviations, and product-moment correlation coefficients are presented in Table IV.

(Table IV about here)

The initial unrotated factor analysis for the fate control variables are presented in Table V. Although the initial analysis called for two factors, the eigenvalues and size of factor loadings indicate that the index taps a single dimension. Therefore, the scoring coefficients for the fate control factor are based on the unrotated orthogonal factor matrix.

(Table V about here)

FACTOR SCORES

To derive factor scores, each variable was weighted proportionately to its involvement in a factor; the more involved a variable, the higher the weight. To determine the score for a respondent on a factor, the individual response on each variable was multiplied by the factor weight for that variable. The sum of these weight-times-response products for all the variables yields the factor score (Rummel, 1970:150). Many approaches are available to determining factor scores. For common factor analysis, however, common factor score regression estimates seem to be most appropriate and are the bases for factor scores in this study. Scores for the comparison-level factors are presented in Table VI and for the fate control in Table VII.

(Table VI about here)

(Table VII about here)

FINDINGS

The causal model depicting the sources of influence on community satisfaction presented in Figure I may be divided into three distinct effects or outcomes: effects on fate control, satisfaction with different attributes of the environment, and satisfaction with the environment in which one resides. Each effect is assumed to depend both on all previous outcomes in the model and on exogenous variables. Therefore, three separate regression models

must be formulated--one for each effect-- in order to determine the direct and indirect effects on community satisfaction.

A product-moment correlation matrix was computed for the variables in the path model to determine the size of their associations and is presented, Table VIII. An examination of the correlation coefficients between independent variables indicates that none of the correlations is extremely large.

(Table VIII about here)

The results of the multiple regressions specified by the general path model of Figure I are summarized in Table IX. An inspection of the results indicates that life quality and communications score were the only variables to be significantly related to community satisfaction when controlling for all variables in the model.

(Table IX about here)

The construction of a path model begins with the assumption that variables between paths have a statistically significant relationship. If two variables are not significantly related, one cannot assume that a change in the first variable will cause a change in the second variable. Heise (1975:195) suggests that eliminating relationships on the basis of near-zero coefficients permits the simplification of the causal structure. He recommends the remaining coefficients in the simplified model be reestimated to improve their precision.

Figure II represents a more parsimonious model of the effects of selected variables on community satisfaction. The model depicts one's community satisfaction as being dependent upon one's communications score and one's satisfaction with life quality in the community. Satisfaction with life quality, in turn, is influenced by the level of income inequality in the community and one's age, level of social participation, and communications score.

(Figure II about here)

It may be recalled that the magnitude of an indirect effect is the summation of the products of corresponding path coefficients between these variables. The direct and indirect effects of the path coefficients illustrated in Figure II are presented in Table X.

(Table X about here)

Elimination of various paths had little effect on the size of R^2 . The more complex model presented in Table IX accounted for approximately 23 percent of the variation in community satisfaction. In contrast, the simpler model (Table X) accounted for 22 percent of the variation in community satisfaction. Thus, the reduction in model complexity was not accompanied by much loss of information.

An inspection of the various effects shown in Table X discloses that the most immediate determinant of community satisfaction is life quality with a positive path coefficient of .601 followed by communications score with a negative coefficient of .101. The indirect effect of communications score was a negative .036 indicating that the correlation between communications score and community satisfaction was not mediated primarily through other variables in the model.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study was directed toward examining the influence of selected objective conditions and subjective experiences on the community satisfaction of residents of low-income counties of the rural South. One reason for the study was to provide data on subjective experiences which could be utilized in the formation of public policies and programs directed toward the development of rural America. At present, such policies and programs rely primarily on information about certain populations and subpopulations rather than information about how people within those populations feel about their circumstances (Rodgers and Converse, 1975). The findings that satisfaction with life quality and type of communication contacts accounted for 22 percent of the variation in community satisfaction should add to the growing body of information on factors influencing community satisfaction.

A second reason for the study was that few attempts have been made to utilize a conceptual framework which enables the incorporation of the structural concept "community" and the social-psychological concept "satisfaction." Guided by the theory of interaction outcomes as formulated by Thibaut and Kelley (1959), a path model was constructed which followed the basic contention of Marans and Rodgers (1975) that objective measures of environmental attributes are inadequate in themselves as indicators of life quality. Only as their relationship to subjective indicators are understood do they begin to take on human meanings and provide reliable guidance for public policy. Although the variables used to operationalize the path model should be interpreted as exploratory in nature, the model does provide a framework from which to examine the contributions of other potential determinants of community satisfaction. As indicated by Brickman and Campbell (1971:288): "We may take it as given that if a society in which people are happy is possible at all, it will be possible only if it incorporates an understanding of adaptation-level phenomena."

A final consideration refers to rural development. Havens (1971) has suggested that two conditions necessary for societal development to occur are communications and relative deprivation. Communication contacts must be present if individuals are to gain new knowledge of new alternatives to the present situation. Sources of knowledge of new alternative forms of behavior provide the basis for relative deprivation. If an individual does not feel deprived or concerned about improving his present condition, there is no logical basis for expecting an individual to be interested in change. This study, however, found that those who had more types of communication contacts were more satisfied with their residential environment than those who had fewer types of communication contacts. While this study does not deny the existence of a relationship between communication contacts and relative deprivation, it does suggest that in low-income counties of the rural South, voluntary organizations to which individuals belong may be perceived as having limited ability to influence decisions affecting the quality of life in the community. Thus, as indicated by Thibaut and Kelley (1959:98), dissatisfaction with failing to attain a desired state is less if there is little optimism about attaining it in the first place.

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TABLES

Table I. Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Rating of Community Satisfaction

Rating	Percent (N = 1846)
Very good	30.8
Pretty good	41.0
Only fair	18.3
Poor	3.9
Undecided	<u>6.0</u>
	100.0

Table II. Product-Moment Correlation Coefficients, Means, and Standard Deviations for Items Measuring Perceptions of Environmental Attributes

Item*																				X	S
1	1																			3.13	1.20
2	.59	2																		3.32	1.14
3	.20	.18	3																	2.81	1.37
4	.11	.07	.05	4																2.34	1.22
5	.18	.17	.06	.14	5															3.04	1.27
6	.15	.14	.17	.13	.19	6														2.73	1.41
7	.16	.15	.28	.10	.09	.30	7													2.90	1.27
8	.14	.16	.15	.02	.13	.08	.14	8												3.23	1.29
9	.12	.06	.03	.21	.14	.10	.15	.08	9											2.68	1.34
10	.16	.12	.01	.31	.13	.12	.15	.07	.33	10										2.58	1.21
11	.14	.11	.04	.33	.15	.11	.13	.03	.31	.44	11									2.88	1.40
12	.13	.19	.12	.02	.15	.17	.15	.13	.11	.22	.22	12								3.43	1.28
13	.12	.13	.18	.02	.14	.19	.19	.15	.13	.08	.06	.11	13							2.74	1.30
14	.20	.13	.14	.03	.14	.14	.12	.08	.16	.13	.14	.16	.16	14						3.28	1.32
15	.09	.07	.01	.24	.09	.12	.09	.02	.18	.25	.24	.03	.16	.20	15					2.53	1.23
16	.13	.12	.12	.08	.10	.12	.11	.16	.12	.11	.14	.16	.11	.12	.16	16				2.79	1.26
17	.15	.11	.00	.28	.16	.15	.15	.01	.22	.28	.34	.09	.13	.14	.26	.16	17			2.63	1.18
18	.15	.09	.07	.30	.16	.16	.15	.02	.20	.29	.44	.16	.06	.21	.17	.13	.33	18		2.93	1.42
19	.18	.16	.15	.19	.16	.20	.21	.10	.17	.23	.29	.17	.11	.21	.16	.17	.26	.40	19	2.97	1.36
20	.08	.04	.14	.34	.13	.07	.04	.04	.23	.28	.33	.02	.07	.11	.18	.08	.35	.34	.29	2.45	1.17

Item*

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Government | 7. Welfare Programs | 14. Recreation Opportunities |
| 2. Politics | 8. Obey Laws | 15. Public Utilities |
| 3. Schools | 9. Roads and Transportation | 16. Environment |
| 4. Job Training | 10. Wage Income | 17. Good Housing |
| 5. Agriculture and Land Use | 11. Job Opportunity | 18. Opportunity for Young |
| 6. Medical Services | 12. Real Income | 19. Opportunity for Elderly |
| | 13. Church and Religion | 20. Opportunity for Blacks |

Table III. Unrotated orthogonal factor matrix

	Factor loadings			h ²
	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	
1 Government	.413	.408	-.385	.485
2 Politics	.360	.446	-.384	.476
3 Schools	.187	.417	.188	.244
4 Job Training	.444	-.260	-.056	.268
5 Agriculture and Land Use	.329	.107	-.008	.120
6 Medical Services	.347	.203	.204	.204
7 Welfare Programs	.353	.252	.240	.246
8 Obey Laws	.173	.281	.073	.114
9 Roads and Transportation	.428	-.117	.044	.199
10 Wage Income	.537	-.192	-.041	.326
11 Job Opportunity	.593	-.281	-.048	.433
12 Real Income	.318	.178	.072	.138
13 Church and Religion	.267	.214	.180	.149
14 Recreation Opportunities	.345	.136	.079	.144
15 Public Utilities	.380	-.115	.050	.160
16 Environment	.294	.115	.080	.106
17 Good Housing	.514	-.187	-.012	.300
18 Opportunity for Young	.564	-.187	.029	.354
19 Opportunity for Elderly	.522	.005	.086	.279
20 Opportunity for Blacks	.452	-.369	-.093	.349
% Total variation	33.19	12.60	5.15	50.94
% Common variation	65.16	24.73	10.11	
Eigenvalues	3.32	1.26	0.52	

Table IV. Product-Moment Correlation Coefficients, Means, and Standard Deviations for Items Measuring Fate Control

Item		$\bar{X}$	s
1	Live for today	<u>1</u>	1.79 0.95
2	Lot of the average man is getting worse	.32 <u>2</u>	1.73 0.90
3	Hardly fair to bring children into the world	.23 .37 <u>3</u>	1.96 0.93
4	Don't know who to count on	.22 .34 .31 <u>4</u>	1.50 0.84
5	Little use writing to public officials	.20 .32 .27 .35 <u>5</u>	1.68 0.86
6	Things have gone against me in life	.21 .24 .26 .19 .16	2.50 0.83

Table V. Initial Unrotated Orthogonal Factor Matrix

Item	Factor Loadings		h^2
	Factor 1	Factor 2	
1 Live for today	.444	.097	.206
2 Lot of the average man is getting worse	.605	.020	.367
3 Hardly fair to bring children into the world	.542	.033	.295
4 Don't know who to count on	.541	-.107	.304
5 Little use writing to public officials	.497	-.126	.263
6 Things have gone against me in life	.391	.123	.168
% Total Variation	15.50	.53	16.03
% Common Variation	96.69	3.31	100.0
Eigenvalues	1.550	0.053	

Table VI. Scoring Coefficient Matrix of Comparison Level Indicators

Item	Score Coefficients		
	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3
1 Government	.025	-.075	-.397
2 Politics	.000	-.079	-.391
3 Schools	-.040	-.215	-.052
4 Job Training	.146	.029	-.004
5 Agriculture and Land Use	.044	-.076	-.063
6 Medical Services	.029	-.178	-.011
7 Welfare Programs	.017	-.211	-.009
8 Obey Laws	-.015	-.122	-.058
9 Roads and Transportation	.104	-.050	-.002
10 Wage Income	.166	-.017	-.031
11 Job Opportunity	.225	.011	-.018
12 Real Income	.024	-.123	-.053
13 Church and Religion	.012	-.155	-.015
14 Recreation Opportunities	.042	-.114	-.039
15 Public Utilities	.096	-.043	.007
16 Environment	.033	-.098	-.030
17 Good Housing	.150	-.024	-.014
18 Opportunity for Young	.173	-.051	-.006
19 Opportunity for Elderly	.108	-.124	-.030
20 Opportunity for Blacks	.187	.083	.011

Table VII. Scoring Coefficient Matrix for Fate Control

Item	Score Coefficients
1 Live for today	.174
2 Lot of the average man is getting worse	.284
3 Hardly fair to bring children into the world	.233
4 Don't know who to count on	.234
5 Little use writing to public officials	.204
6 Things have gone against me in life	.148

Table VIII. Product-Moment Correlation Coefficients for all Variables in the Path Model

Item										
1	Income Inequality	<u>1</u>								
2	Age	-.02 N=1783	<u>2</u>							
3	Education	-.08* N=1783	-.36* N=1783	<u>3</u>						
4	Social Participation	.00 N=1783	-.05 N=1783	.27* N=1783	<u>4</u>					
5	Communication Score	.02 N=1783	-.03 N=1783	.40* N=1783	.32* N=1783	<u>5</u>				
6	Total Family Income	-.03 N=1783	-.39* N=1783	.47* N=1783	.23* N=1783	.40* N=1783	<u>6</u>			
7	Fate Control	-.01 N=1744	-.07* N=1744	.36* N=1744	.19* N=1744	.30* N=1744	.30* N=1744	<u>7</u>		
8	Life Quality	.10* N=1783	-.06* N=1783	-.06* N=1783	-.12* N=1783	-.10* N=1783	-.05 N=1783	-.07* N=1744	<u>8</u>	
9	Institutional Services	-.05 N=1783	.06* N=1783	-.04 N=1783	.02 N=1783	.00 N=1783	-.07* N=1783	.12* N=1744	-.44* N=1783	<u>9</u>
10	Political Efficacy	-.03 N=1783	.03 N=1783	-.03 N=1783	.04 N=1783	.01 N=1783	-.03 N=1783	.14* N=1744	-.36* N=1783	.65* N=1783
11	Community Satisfaction	.01 N=1783	-.02 N=1783	-.07* N=1783	-.13* N=1783	-.13* N=1783	-.06* N=1783	-.10* N=1744	.46* N=1783	-.24* N=1783
									-.21* N=1783	

*Significant at the .01 level

Table IX. Path Coefficients for Variables at each Effect of the Path Model

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	DEPENDENT VARIABLES				
	Fate Control	Life Quality	Institutional Services	Political Efficacy	Community Satisfaction
Income Inequality	χ^a	.091*	-.048*	-.032	χ^a
Age	.073*	-.073*	.010	-.003	-.002
Education	.210*	-.003	-.062*	-.066*	-.003
Social Participation	.042	-.089*	.023	.033	-.062
Communication Score	.103*	-.050	.010	-.004	-.079*
Total Family Income	.123*	-.015	-.072*	-.041	-.010
Fate Control		-.040	.168*	.169*	
Life Quality					.559*
Institutional Services					-.072
Political Efficacy					-.029
F Value	76.34*	9.78*	8.82*	7.59*	64.82*
R^2	.18	.038	.034	.030	.226

 χ^a No path hypothesized

* Significant at the .01 level

Table X. Direct and Indirect Effects on Community Satisfaction

Variable	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Total Direct and Indirect Effect
Communication Score	-.101*	-.036	-.137
Age	X ^a	-.037	-.037
Social Participation	X ^a	-.056	-.056
Income Inequality	X ^a	-.055	.055
Life Quality	.601*	---	.601
F Value	251.34		
R ²	.220		

X^a No path hypothesized

* Significant at the .01 level.

FIGURES

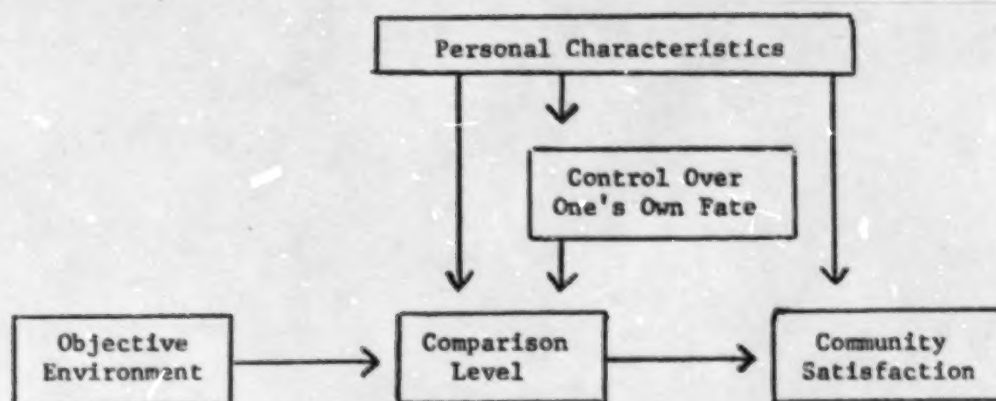


Figure I. Causal Model of Community Satisfaction

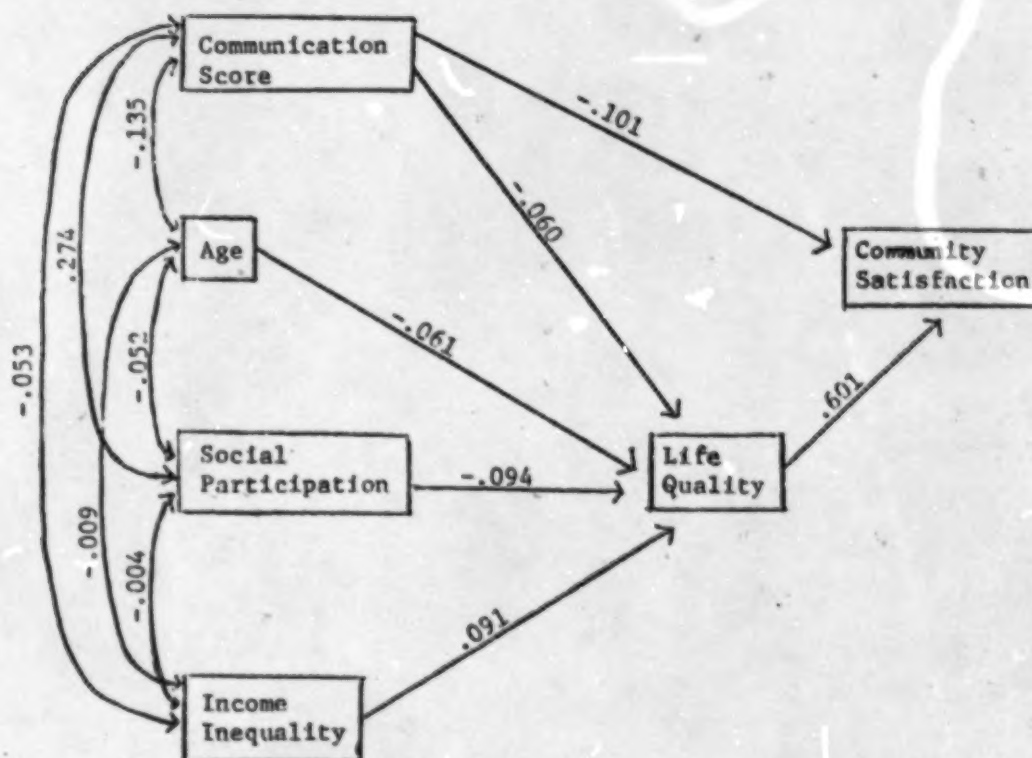


Figure II. Effects of Objective Conditions and Subjective Experiences on Community Satisfaction

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